

ABSTRACT

A laser includes a chamber having a front mirror and a back mirror defining a optical propagation path. An optical gain medium such as a solid state disk, rod or slab is located between the front and back mirrors within the chamber to produce a laser light along the optical propagation path. A birefringent lens formed from an optically active material is located within the chamber to simultaneously focus the laser light and to affect the polarity of the laser light as the light passes through the birefringent lens.